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OREGON (DARK-EYED) JUNCO

December

Cricket

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National Wildlife Federation

1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

## SETTING THE TABLE FOR WILDLIFE

There's a happy revolution going on these days in the way many people are learning to think about wildlife. City people, who used to think they had to go to the zoo or move to the country to catch an occasional glimpse of a wild creature, are changing their ideas. They're discovering they can attract birds, butterflies, chipmunks, rabbits and other animals to their own backyards. The larger the yard the better, of course, but even a small city garden can become an oasis for a variety of animals.

Food, water, and hiding or nesting places are all it takes to lure wildlife to your place. When you provide these things, word seems to spread quickly along the wildlife grapevine. But the host family must be a dependable source of these necessities if it hopes to enjoy a continuous parade of the flashing color, chatter, and charming antics of wild visitors.

A little book work is usually in order before the average yard or garden can be converted to a mini-refuge. There's not only the question of which species of trees, shrubs, and flowers grow best in your area, but also the question of which ones attract the particular species you want. Mountain ash, for example, may bring 15 species of birds to your yard while Eastern red cedar has been known to attract as many as 68 species.

Being a dependable host also involves searching out those trees or shrubs which will keep food on the bough all year--especially in the winter months. In the Northeast section of the country, for example, mountain ash will bear its bright orange fruit from August to March; the staghorn sumac will carry birds on through May until the fruit of the bird cherry ripens in June. In July, highbush blueberries are ready and overlap the next fruit crop of the mountain ash.

The beauty of this particular combination is that these plants range in height from seven feet to 35 feet; this size variation appeals not only to landscape architects but also to birds. The latter thrive in a plant community in which they may choose among a rich variety of sizes, shapes, and species for their feeding, hiding, courting and nesting places.

Further digging in books, government pamphlets, and literature from ornithological societies will yield specific information about the menu preferences of different species of wildlife. For example, purple finches love to eat the catkins of bigtooth aspen. Other birds have their favorite seeds, berries or buds. Planting these favorites increases your chances of attracting the birds you want to see in your garden.

Wildlife needs water. You may provide it in a pool, birdbath, or through a dripping hose or faucet--but the supply must be dependable. The freezing days of winter are as crucial as the hot dry spells of summer. In winter, ice in the birdbath will have to be replaced daily with water. An elevated birdbath is an attractive addition to the yard and offers protection from cats, while a small pool or a dripping hose can provide water for small mammals that live in your corner plantings or hedges.

Cats and dogs can be a problem if you are serious about transforming your backyard into a wildlife sanctuary. Fencing can be beautified with climbing roses, grapes, Virginia creeper or other vines that will also add to the food supply and wildlife cover.

All of these changes will take time, and you will want to provide artificial feeding stations as a stop-gap measure. As you move ahead with your planting program, you will find yourself increasingly observant of wildlife everywhere, thus coming up with your own ideas for making them feel at home in your yard. As you begin to "think like a bird," you may find some of your values shifting. Where you might not have tolerated a small patch of bare earth before, you may now decide to create one as a scratching and dusting area for your growing flock of feathered visitors. A box of gravel and grit for small birds is another outdoor guest room touch.

Don't be surprised if you even find yourself looking at your lawn with new eyes. This neat, manicured green spread, product of so many applications of seed, fertilizer, water, and pesticide may suddenly be seen as a costly green desert offering little sustenance to wildlife. Perhaps, after checking local weed ordinances, you will decide to reduce the size of your lawn to make room for more productive plants--say, a seed-producing mixture of native grasses and wildflowers in a secluded area.

If you want to entice rabbits, chipmunks, foxes and raccoons onto your property, proceed with caution. These animals are interesting to watch at a distance, but they can become pests if your garden isn't properly fenced or your trash can lid not safely secured. However, with proper precautions and the realization that if you entice them you should be responsible for solving any problems they may cause, mammal-watching can be one of the most enjoyable of all backyard activities. Watching a family of skunks, a nest of white-footed mice, or the late night visit to a bird feeder by flying squirrels can be an unforgettable experience, especially for children.

Curtailing the lawn may sound extreme, but the trees and shrubs which are most attractive to wildlife are generally those which can add the most color, variety, and beauty of line to the yard from an ornamental point of view, provided all is well-planned. The important thing is to have your plan completely diagrammed on paper before you start so you can check out heights and color combinations as well as seasonal successions.

Don't forget the crowning touch--something for the butterflies! Happily, it's the fragrant, brightly colored flowers which attract them. Recommended as proven butterfly catchers are the milkweeds, phlox, lily, cosmos, butterfly bush and Joe Pye weed.

So join the revolution. Set the table for wildlife in your own backyard. An excellent reference for planning your yard is the National Wildlife Federation reprint, "Invite Wildlife To Your Backyard." If you wish to do even more, join the hundreds of families nationwide who have certified their properties in NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. For a Backyard Kit, including the reprint, list of information sources, and an application, send \$1.00 to: Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

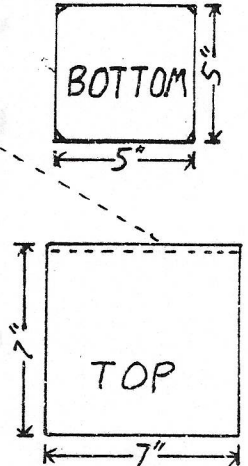
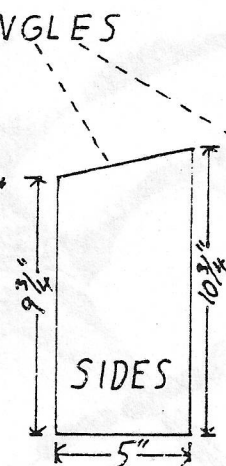
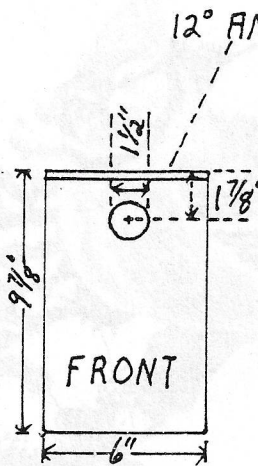
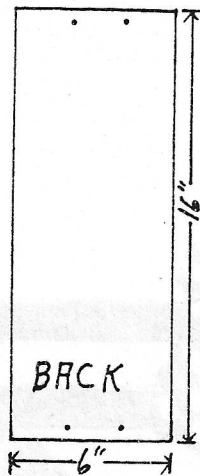
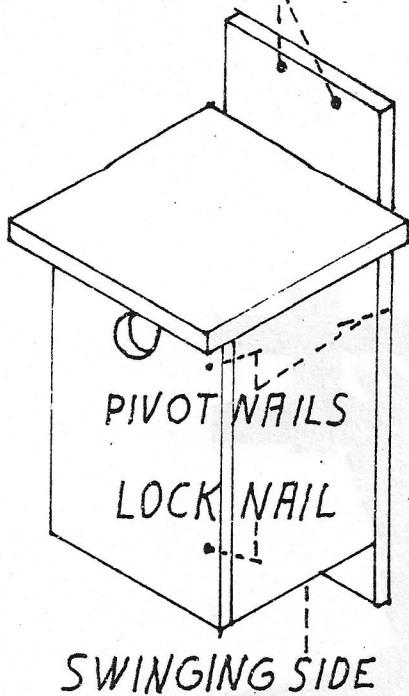
Set of 9 Wildlife Notes free--additional sets 25¢ each  
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# HOLES FOR WIRE

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R.P.



**DIMENSIONS** of this standard bird nesting box can be varied to accommodate different kinds of birds. The key is the size of the entry hole in front. Larger entries provide access for

larger birds. Some builders prefer a deeper nesting box to provide better security for the eggs. It's recommended that the boxes be unpainted, weathering into natural hues.

# Bird homes nice cure to winter blues

Here is the official bluebird house I promised you. This is a good project to try out those new tools you got for Christmas or maybe you can chase away the "after Christmas blues" by building several of these. It is a good idea to get them built and hung out soon.

The nest box can be used for several kinds of birds by adjusting the size of the entry hole. I'm using one-half inch exterior plywood. If you use thicker plywood, you will need to adjust the front and back measurements to fit.

Cut one back piece 16 inches long and 6 inches wide. Drill two holes near the top and bottom so a wire may be pushed through to fasten the box to a post or whatever is handy.

Cut one front piece 9 7/8 inches long by 6 inches wide. The top edge may be beveled at a 12-degree angle so the top will fit down evenly.

Mark the entry hole center 1 1/2 inches down from the top edge and 3 inches in from the side and drill a 1 1/2-inch hole.

The front piece is cut 1/4-inch longer than the front edge of the side pieces. This makes a small crack at the top of the sides for ventilation.

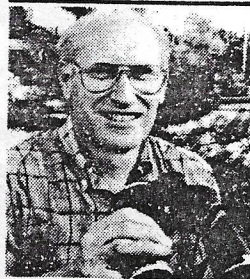
Cut two side pieces 9 3/4 inches on the front edge and 10 3/4 inches on the back edge. (This should be about a 12-degree angle.) Make them 5 inches wide.

Cut one top piece 7 inches square and bevel the back edge 12-degrees so it will fit snugly to the backboard.

Cut one bottom piece 5 inches square and clip the corners off to provide drainage and ventilation through the bottom. Now let's nail it together.

Nail the left side to the bottom board. (I use five-penny finish nails.) Nail the front to the bottom board and to the left side. Center the back board on this part of the bird house and nail it to the bottom and left side. Now you should have the back, side, front and bottom securely nailed together.

Draw a straight line across the top of the side that isn't fastened to the birdhouse. Use a tri-square to make the line straight from edge to edge. Fit the side piece onto the box and drive one nail through the front into the side piece and one nail through the back straight along the line into the side piece.



By  
**Orley  
Ringering**

If you have done it correctly, you should now be able to swing the right side up. This makes it easy to clean the box out after the nesting season is done or between consecutive broods.

To keep the side shut, drill a small hole angling downward through the front of the box into the side piece and push a nail into it.

Center the top over the box and nail it to all the parts except the side that swings open.

There, you have finished the box unless you insist on painting it. It looks much more natural to the bird if you just let the boards weather. It will look more like the old snags they have always nested in.

You may hang the house by running wire through the holes in the top and bottom of the back board or by nailing it through the holes.

If there are cats or coons in the area, you may need to put a metal guard around the pole — something like a piece of stove pipe — to keep them from climbing to the birdhouse.

For bluebirds, place the nesting box in an open area with a small tree or fence out 25 to 100 feet in front of the box. The box may be four or more feet above the ground (put it high if there are cats around). A low box seems to discourage English sparrows somewhat.

A gentleman out on Sand Creek Road makes his boxes

eight inches deep front to back. He says this helps to keep the jays from reaching into the box and stealing the eggs. The bluebirds seem to like the boxes. You may wish to try them. I haven't done it yet.

If you would like to use the box for wrens, drill a one-inch entry hole instead of the 1 1/2-inch hole. For swallows, chickadees, titmice and nuthatches, drill a 1 1/4-inch hole.

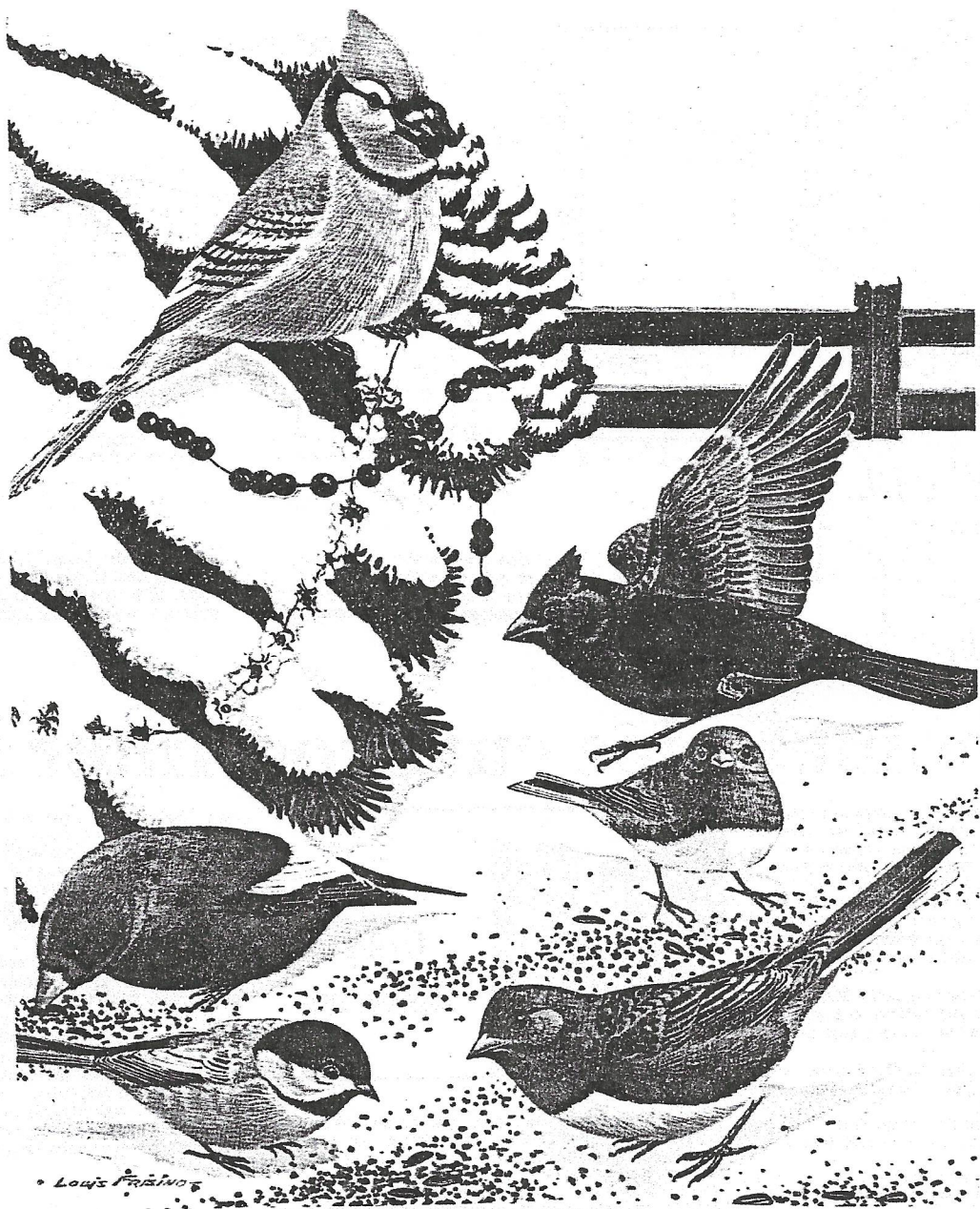
Swallows like a fairly open area so fasten the box about the same as for bluebirds. For wrens, titmice and nuthatches, fasten the nest box at the edge of the woods in an open place or below open branches.

Sometimes an ash-throated flycatcher will nest in the regular bluebird house if it is fastened among the branches of a rather thick bushy tree or thicket.

Be patient, it may take several years for your houses to be filled to capacity. My 30 boxes are not all full at the same time, but usually by the end of the nesting season most of them have been used at least once.

*If you have questions about these houses, or information about your success with them, my phone number is 592-4294.*

*Robert Powers.*



HOLIDAY HARMONY

by Louis Frisino

Birds need help when snows cover the ground and food is hard to find. An evergreen trimmed with edible treats will provide many species with the food they need to survive. Cranberries and popcorn, plus supplements of bread crumbs, raisins, suet and peanut butter will give almost every bird you would find near your home something it would find good to eat. Peacefully enjoying their holiday feast are (clockwise from top left): blue jay, cardinal, junco, rufous-sided towhee, chickadee and evening grosbeak.

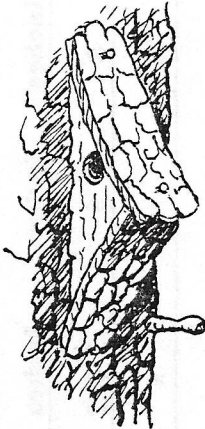
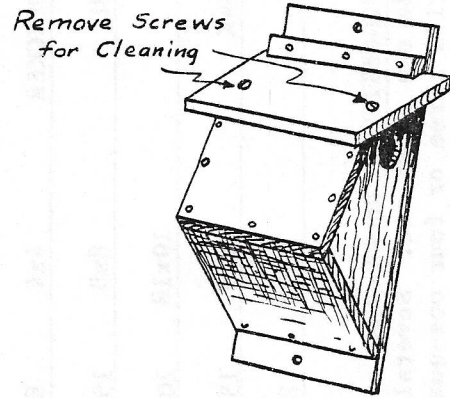
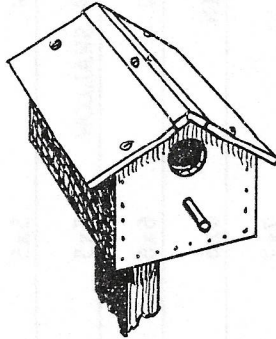
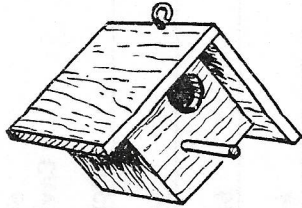
The wildlife scene on this card serves as a reminder of the beauty of nature... of our need to promote an appreciation for wildlife... and of the importance of the conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

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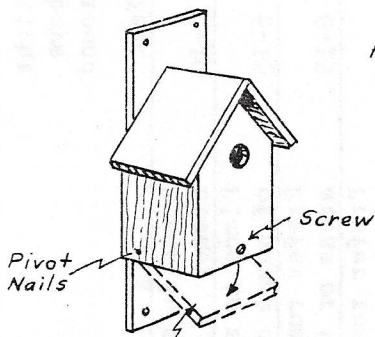
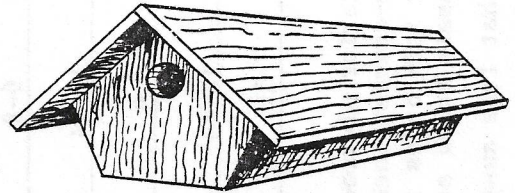
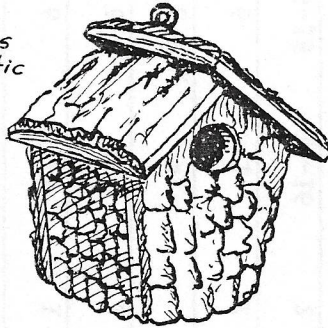
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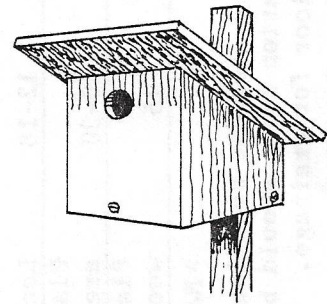
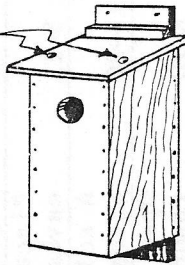
# BIRD HOUSES



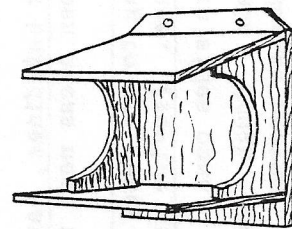
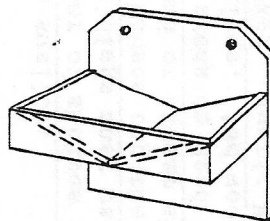
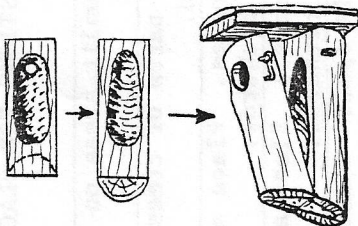
Many Birds prefer Rustic Houses



Remove Screws for Cleaning



Bottom Swings down for Cleaning



Nesting shelves for Robins & Barn Swallows

NEST BOX SPECIFICATIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR PLACEMENT

SPECIES	Floor of Cavity	Depth of Cavity	Entrance Above Floor	Size of Entrance	Height Above Ground	SUGGESTIONS FOR PLACEMENT
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Feet	
BLUEBIRD	5x5	8	6	1 1/2	5-10	Place in open sunlit areas on fence posts or trees.
ROBIN	6x8	8	*	*	6-15	Place in shaded parts of trees or under eaves of house or shed.
CHICKADEE	4x4	8-10	6-8	1 1/4	6-15	Prefer rustic houses. Place along wooded areas or in old orchards.
NUTHATCH	4x4	8-10	6-8	1 1/4	12-20	Prefer rustic houses. Place along wooded areas or in old orchards.
WRENS	4x4	6-8	1-6	1	6-10	Any partly sunlit spot. These houses may be hung from a tree limb.
TREE SWALLOW	5x5	6	1-5	1 1/2	10-15	Place several boxes together on a post or dead tree near water.
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW	5x5	6	1-5	1 1/4	10-15	Same as tree swallow.
BARN SWALLOW	6x6	6	*	*	8-12	Place a number of shelves together under the eaves of buildings near water.
PURPLE MARTIN	6x6	6	1	2 1/2	15-20	A colony of houses together will attract these birds. A pond or stream should be nearby.
FLICKER	7x7	16-18	14-16	2 1/2	6-20	Open wooded areas on dead trees above surrounding foliage. Add wood shavings.
DOWNY WOODPECKER	4x4	8-10	6-8	1 1/4	6-20	Same as flicker. Rustic houses will probably be more acceptable.
SCREECH OWL	8x8	15-18	12-14	4	10-30	Same as downy woodpecker. Wood shavings should be added.
BARN OWL	10x18	20-24	4	5	12-18	Locate near buildings, barns, or open fields.
SPARROW HAWK	8x8	15-18	12-14	4	10-30	Place in open areas near fields or water areas.
WOOD DUCK	8x10	24	16	4	15	Place facing toward water. Add 4 inches of wood shavings. Provide drain holes in bottom.

\*Two or more sides open.

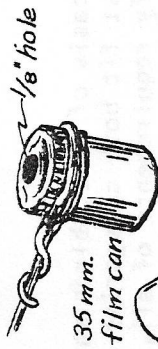
**BUILDING SUGGESTIONS:** Rough cedar or exterior plywood are good, durable building materials. Rough wood should be used so young birds can climb out. Several one-quarter inch ventilation holes should be provided to prevent suffocation of young birds. Drill three or four one-quarter inch holes in the floor for drainage. Galvanized nails or brass screws will not rust like ordinary nails. Clean and repair boxes at least once a year.

**GENERAL PLACEMENT SUGGESTIONS:** Boxes that face away from storms are more inviting to birds. Young birds will not become trapped if boxes that tilt forward at the top.



# BIRD FEEDERS

## HUMMING BIRD FEEDERS



1/8" hole

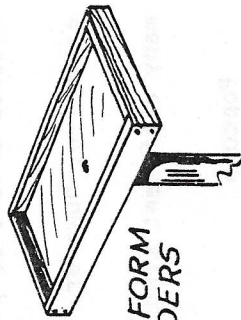
35 mm. film can



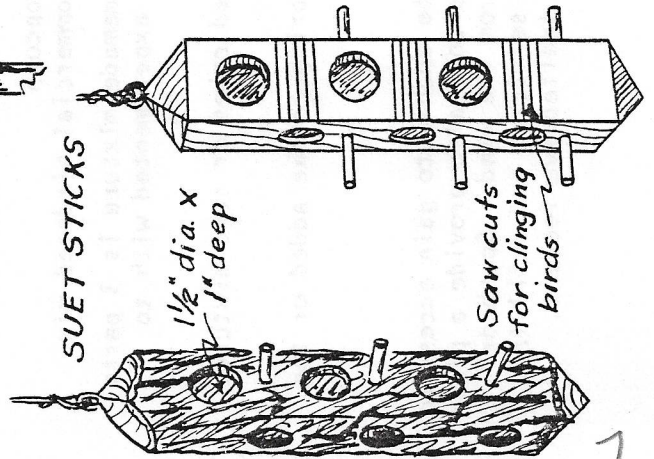
Small pop or catsup bottle

Metal or stiff plastic

## PLATFORM FEEDERS



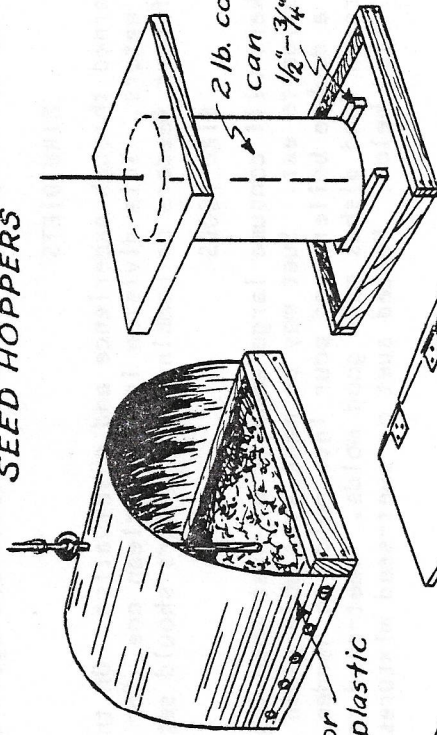
## SUET STICKS



1 1/2" dia. x 1" deep

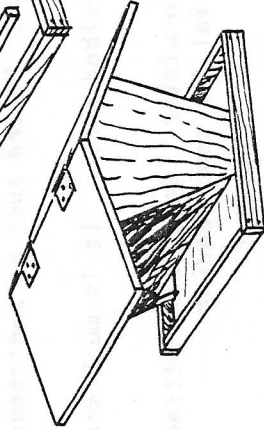
Saw cuts for clinging birds

## SEED HOPPERS



2 lb. coffee can

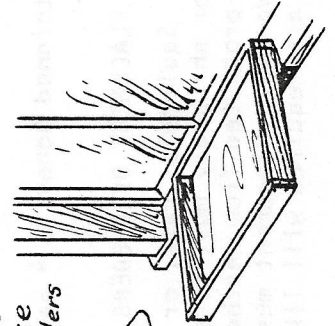
1/2" - 3/4" high



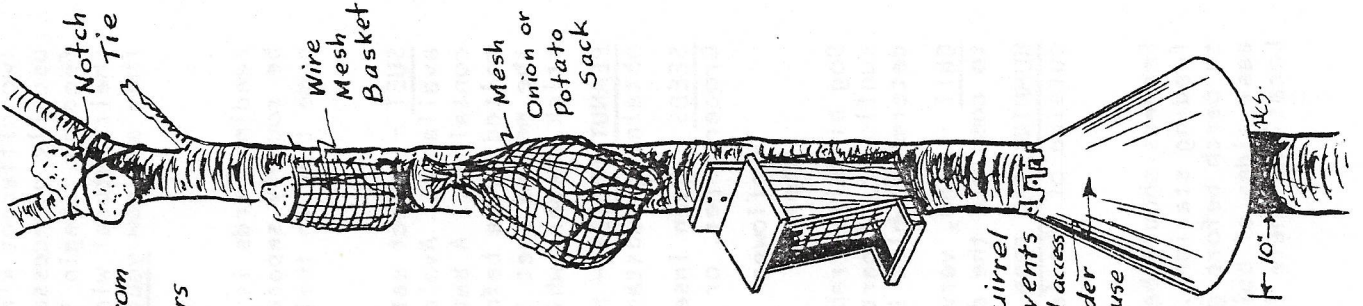
TV dinner trays compartmentalize feeders



## WINDOW-SHELF FEEDERS



## SUET FEEDERS



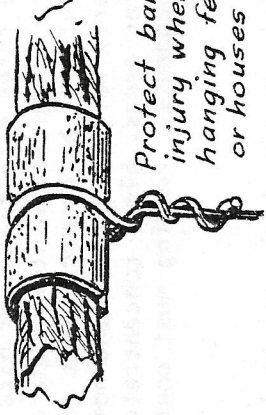
Notch Tie

Wire Mesh Basket

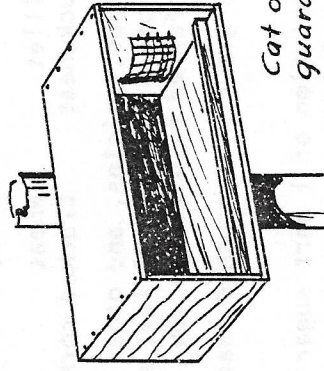
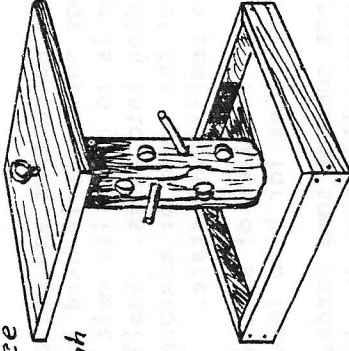
Mesh or Onion or Potato Sack

10" 1/2"

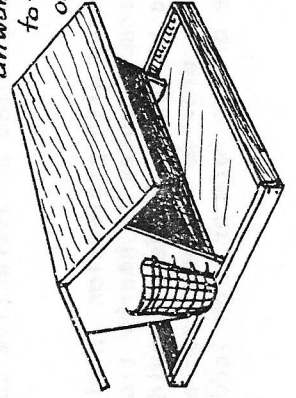
Protect bark from injury when hanging feeders or houses



## COMBINATION FEEDERS



Cat or Squirrel guard prevents unwanted access to feeder or house





## FEEDING WILD BIRDS

Most important of the three essentials for bird life is food. Water and shelter play a lesser role. Feeding may be of two different kinds -- summer and winter. Correct feeding requires varying diet with the season. Summer feeding is usually unnecessary but will bring more birds to the feeding area for people to enjoy. Winter is the important time for feeding. Begin in early fall to attract and hold birds that would otherwise migrate farther south. Once lured from their natural wintering areas, birds concentrate around feeders in larger numbers than the area can naturally support. They are now your dependents. Feeding must continue until spring when natural foods are again abundant.

### BIRD DIETS

Feeding birds is largely an art which must be learned through experience and observation. On the basis of diet, birds may be roughly separated into seed eaters and insect eaters. This division is not a clean one, for most fit both categories at some time in their life. The use of several different feeders or combination feeders should satisfy requirements of all.

### BIRD FOODS

SUET - Insect eaters like nuthatches and woodpeckers will consume large amounts of suet when insects and larva are not available. Avoid stringy suet. It is hard for birds to eat. Suet may be made available plain or in any large-mesh container. A better way is to grind it, melt in a double boiler, and pour into molds to harden. It is more durable if melted twice before molding into cakes. Small frozen food dishes make good molds. Suet-seed cakes may be made by adding the melted suet to any of the seeds or mixtures listed below. Melted suet or suet-seed mixtures should be placed in suet stick feeders while in a semi-liquid state.

PEANUT BUTTER - May be used in place of suet in manner described above. It is much more expensive, however. Look into obtaining standard quantities for bird feeding.

SEEDS - Even insect eaters consume some seeds, especially in winter. Seeds will attract many different kinds of birds. Grocery, pet, or feed stores will carry the following material for seed feeding.

Sunflower	Millet	Wheat	Rice	Oatmeal	Popcorn
Hempseed	Buckwheat	Cracked corn	Chopped nuts	Bread crumbs (dried)	Commercial birdseed mix

Dog biscuits, rabbit food, raisins, and other such items are also used in mixtures. A good homemade mixture is 3 parts sunflower, 3 parts hempseed, 3 parts millet, and 1 part buckwheat. Several mixtures should be experimented with to determine which is preferred by birds in your area.

GRIT - Sand, very fine gravel, or crushed charcoal should be added in small amounts to suet-seed cakes or seed mixtures to complete the diet.

HUMMINGBIRD FOOD - A solution of 1 part sugar or thinned honey to 4 parts water. Red food coloring may be added or the outside of the feeder painted an attractive color.

### PLACEMENT OF FEEDERS

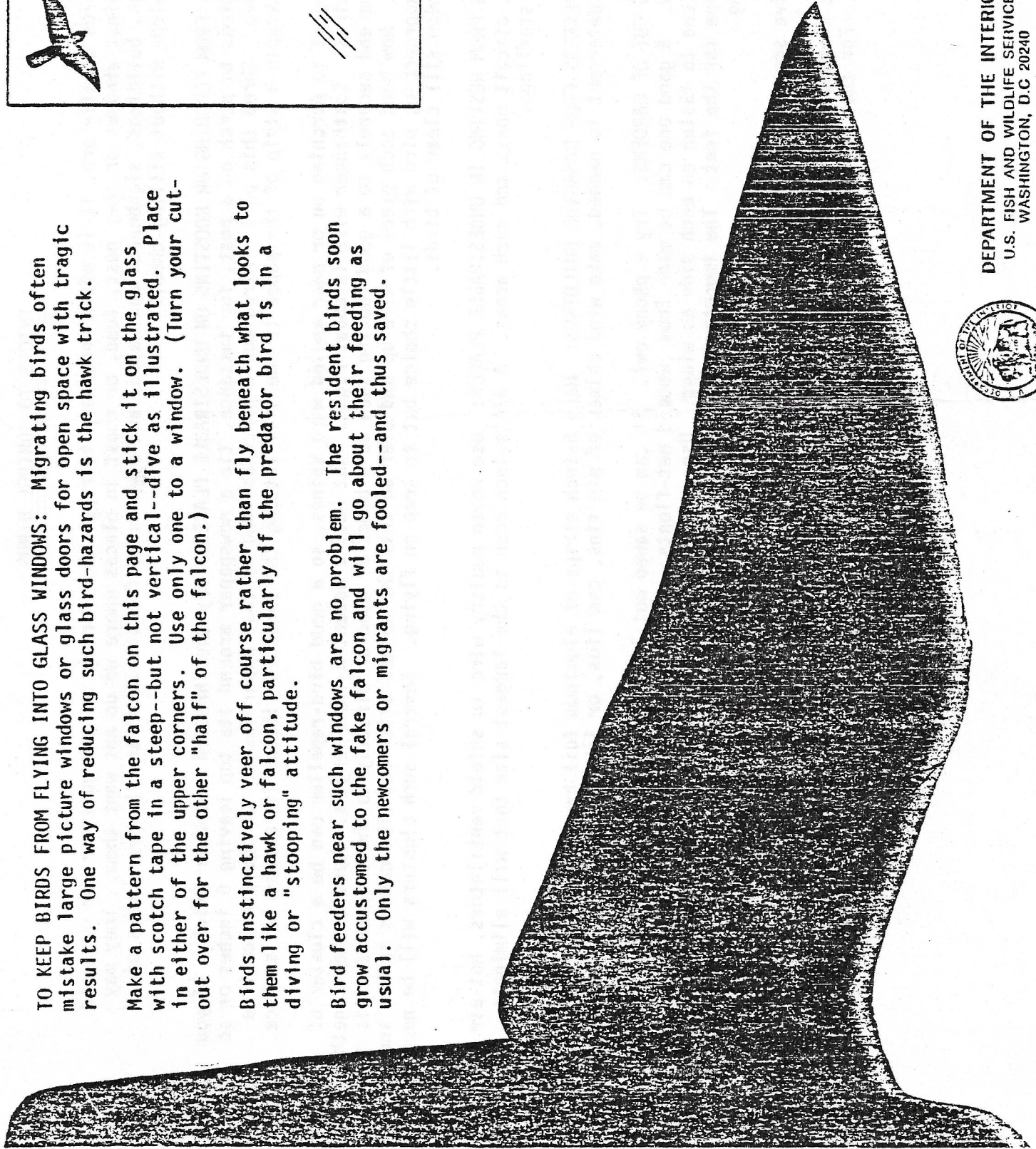
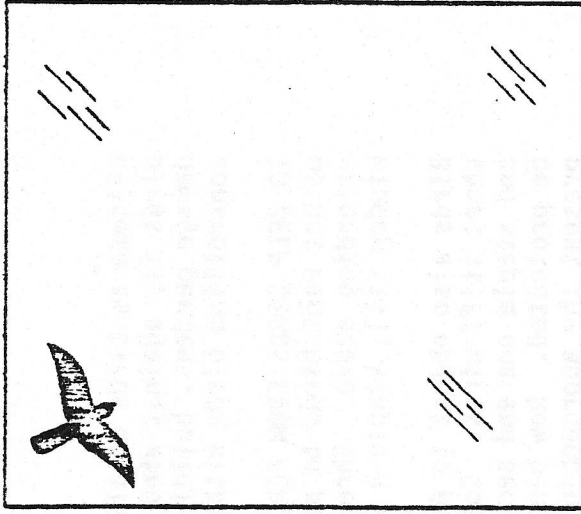
Feeders should be placed with protection in mind. Squirrels, cats, or other predators should be unable to gain access to feeding stations. Escape routes to nearby trees or shrubbery must be available. These cover plants also provide a place to perch before going to feed. Feeders should be protected from weather by facing them away from the wind. South or east sides of buildings provide the most sun and warmth. Placement must also consider ease in servicing and refilling. Locations where large drifts form or high ladders are required will likely result in empty and ineffective feeders.

**TO KEEP BIRDS FROM FLYING INTO GLASS WINDOWS:** Migrating birds often mistake large picture windows or glass doors for open space with tragic results. One way of reducing such bird-hazards is the hawk trick.

Make a pattern from the falcon on this page and stick it on the glass with scotch tape in a steep--but not vertical--dive as illustrated. Place in either of the upper corners. Use only one to a window. (Turn your cut-out over for the other "half" of the falcon.)

Birds instinctively veer off course rather than fly beneath what looks to them like a hawk or falcon, particularly if the predator bird is in a diving or "stooping" attitude.

Bird feeders near such windows are no problem. The resident birds soon grow accustomed to the fake falcon and will go about their feeding as usual. Only the newcomers or migrants are fooled--and thus saved.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



91

## TRICKS TO CONTROL BIRDS

Welcome as birds usually are, it is often necessary to repel them for their own good--or our own good. Birds fly against windows or they nest, feed, or roost in places where we do not want them. They may damage gardens, buildings, signboards and walls, and even cause fires. There are, however, ways of controlling birds without killing them.

**TO KEEP BIRDS FROM PERCHING OR ROOSTING ON UNDESIRABLE PLACES:** Try the shredded newspaper trick. If you do not want birds to perch on a post, for instance, tie a newspaper around its top leaving 6 inches or so extending above. Shred this part. Birds won't perch as long as that paper lasts. If the problem is a window sill, staple a strip of the paper to the sill letting the shredded ribbons lie across its surface.

Birds also object to perching on or near angled wire spines, so a good bird-repeller can be a cluster of short stiff wires. Coathanger wire is about right. Cut half a dozen, 6-inch lengths. Bundle them together and staple one end securely to a good footing such as a block of wood or directly to the surface that is to be protected. Now bend each piece of wire up and over so that the spines stick out like cactus spikes and present the approaching bird with little choice but to keep on flying. Several such clusters will be needed to keep a window sill clear of birds.

**TO KEEP BIRDS FROM NESTING IN UNDESIRABLE PLACES:** Use woven poultry wire to shield ventilators, hot-air blower ducts, circuit boxes and such areas. A 3/4'-inch mesh is the largest size that will eliminate sparrows and starlings.

**TO KEEP WOODPECKERS FROM DAMAGING BUILDINGS:** Hang 6-inch strips of aluminum foil by strings from the eaves. If a greater deterrent is needed, make wind chimes of pie tins, can lids, or like material.

**TO KEEP BIRDS OUT OF GARDENS:** Try a phony owl. It can be sawed out life-size from a board or made from other objects. A good one can be made from wooded net-floats. Use a long one for the body and split another long one to fasten on each side as wings. Use a round one with bored-out eyes for the head and a disc-shaped one for the feet. The important thing is to move it from post to post frequently to keep the birds guessing.

Other effective scare-devices include string-tethered balloons, aluminum pie plates, wind turbines made of plastic milk jugs, or anything that whirls or twists in the wind. Here again, though, it is necessary to make frequent changes. Sooner or later the birds will lose their fear of any scare device--if it remains in one place. For that reason, unfortunately, the traditional scarecrow-strawman is nearly always useless.

10